

THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

Vol. IX.

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 15TH, 1882

NUMBER 29

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—7, Rua Nova das Laranjeiras.
THOMAS A. OSBORN,
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EDWIN CORBETT,
Minister.
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Visconde de Inhamã.
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Consul General.
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 8, Travessa
de D. Manoel.
GEORGE THORNE RICKETTS,
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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Services in the
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City Rooms: No. 45, Rua do Ouvidor, 2nd floor.
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RAILWAYS.
DOM PEDRO II.—Through Express: Upward, leaves
Rio at 5 a.m.; arriving at Barra Junction at 7:45 a.m., Barra
Rio (central line) 10:15 a.m., Belfort 12:45 p.m., Porto
Novo (branch from Barra Rio) 1:15 p.m., Cachoeira (S. Paulo
branch) 1:45 a.m., São Paulo (P.O. V. & Rio R.R.) 6 p.m.
Downward, leaves São Paulo 6 a.m., Belfort 8:30 a.m.,
Porto Novo 10:15 p.m.; arriving at Barra 4:15 a.m. and Rio 7:15
p.m. Connects with Valença line at Desengano; Rio
das Flores line at Commercio, União Mineira line at Ser-
ranã; Oeste de Minas (S. João F.F.R.) line at Sinic.
Lopoldina line at Porto Novo; Recife e Arica line at
Sumbily, and S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line at Cadoeira.
Central Express: Upward, leaves Rio 7:15 a.m., arriving
at Barra 10:30 a.m., Rio Novo (central line) 7:05, Cachoeira
(S. Paulo branch) 7:35 p.m., Downward, leaves Cachoeira 1:45
a.m., Rio Novo 5:30 a.m.; arriving at Barra 1:45 and 1:55 p.m.,
Rio 5:45 p.m. Stops at all stations. Connects with Sum-
ma Cruz branch at Sapopemba, and Macacos branch at Belém.
Mixed Trains: Leave Rio at 10:30 a.m., 1:15 and 4:10 p.m.;
arrive, from Belém 7:15 a.m., from Barra 8:45 a.m., from
Entre Rios leaving 10:30 a.m., at 1:45 p.m.
Suburban Trains: Passenger runs leave at 5:00, 6:30,
7:45, 8:40 and 10:22 a.m., and 1:05, 2:15, 3:25, 4:35, 5:35, 6:35,
8:30 and 10:00 p.m., all stopping at Cadoeira except the 10
p.m. train, which runs to Sapopemba. Returning, the trains
leave Sapopemba at 3:25 and Cadoeira at 3:50, 6:10, 7:45,
8:45, 10, and 11:35 a.m., and 2:10, 3:20, 4:30, 5:35, 7, 8:30 and
9:40 p.m.
CANTAGALLO R.—Leaves Niterói Santa Anna
7:30 a.m., arriving at Nova Friburgo 1:05. Corderio 1 hour
per tramway from Cantagalo 4:25 and Macuco 5:45 p.m.
Return train leaves Macuco 6:30, Corderio 7:30 and Nova
Friburgo 11:20 a.m., arriving at Niterói 4:35 p.m. A ferry
boat runs between Rio and Santa Anna, connecting with trains.
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days, and 3 p.m. Sundays. Returning, diligence leaves Petro-
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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet the French packet of the 15th, and Royal Mail packet of the 24th. of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

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New Haven, Conn.

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 15TH, 1882.

DURING his speech before the Senate on the 11th instant on the questions involved in the general budget, Senator Afonso Celso took occasion to employ an alarming array of statistics to show the present favorable financial condition of Brazil. To do this comparisons were made between the receipts, debts, and interest charges of the leading nations of the world, and from them it was proved that Brazil is in a most fortunate position in every respect. Her revenues have increased at a greater ratio, her public indebtedness is low compared with her population, and her taxes per capita rank among the lowest. From all this the Minas senator argues that the country occupies a highly favorable position, and that all the assumptions that the Brazilian treasury is in a critical condition, are groundless. And yet this very speech was made in support of a proposal to add 10 per cent. to the additional tax on imports to meet the deficits of the treasury! At best, all these comparisons employed by Senator Afonso Celso are fatally misleading. The ability of a country to carry a heavy public debt is not dependent upon her population, nor does an increase in the revenue mean a corresponding increase in wealth and industry. The bare comparisons given in this speech are absolutely worthless. Take for instance the comparisons between the public debts of Great Britain and Brazil. According to the statistics produced, which were taken from the *Investors Manual* of 1878—nearly four years ago—the public debt of Great Britain distributed among the people amounted to 230s per capita [at 10s to the pound sterling], while that of Brazil was only 85s. From this it would appear that every person in Great Britain is burdened with nearly three times the public debt which the Brazilian owes. But is this comparison just? Taxes are generally imposed upon property, and only in a restricted sense upon persons. No one will deny that the wealth of Great Britain is many times greater than three times that of Brazil, and that the country is in a position to meet the costs and pay a public indebtedness ten times greater, in proportion to population, than Brazil now is. As far as the ability to pay is concerned, Great Britain's per capita average of 230s is much less than Brazil's 85s—supposing this figure to be correct. But is it correct? Is not the per capita average to-day greater than this sum? The aggregate public indebtedness of Brazil to-day, including the funded debt,

the deficits, the outstanding treasury bills, and the account current with the Banco do Brazil, will not fall short of 900,000,000s, which in itself is equivalent to a per capita average of 90s—taking the population as 10,000,000, exclusive of Indians and transient foreigners. The public indebtedness of the several provinces, at a rough estimate, will give 60,000,000s more, which carries the per capita average up to 96s. Add to this the very moderate sum of 20,000,000s as the aggregate of municipal funded debts throughout the empire, and we have a total public indebtedness of 980,000,000s, or an average of 98s for every man, woman and child in Brazil. If now we take the aggregate capital of the railways and industrial establishments of the country, upon which the general and provincial governments have guaranteed specified rates of interest, and which for stated periods and investment purposes are practically public debts, we have a further interest bearing debt of not less than 220,000,000s. This gives a total indebtedness, for whose interest charges the public credit is explicitly pledged, of 1,200,000,000s, or a per capita average of 120s. If now Brazil were going ahead, developing her resources, extending her industries, adding to her wealth, and saving something from her income every year, this indebtedness would be a mere trifle. The contrary of all this, however, is actually the case. For the last fifteen years the country has enjoyed profound peace, and has encountered only one serious calamity, the Ceará *famine*; and yet her debt has been rapidly increasing, and her expenditures have uniformly exceeded her receipts. It is true, as Senator Afonso Celso says, that her revenue has greatly increased—but at what a cost? "Fifty per cent. additional" on imports, an increase in the taxes on exports, large increases in the internal taxes on business, industries, and every form of commercial transaction, taxes on railway and steamship passengers—taxes every where? The outcome of this "great increase in revenue," to which the senator calls attention, is the painful fact that Brazil is now one of the most heavily taxed countries in the world! If this is cause for congratulation, then the ex-minister of finance is welcome to it all. The ordinary costs of doing business in this city, through the taxes imposed, are among the heaviest in any city of the world, and the taxes on importation are similarly distinguished. In view of the fact that public revenues are derived from public taxes, it is always hazardous to point out an increased revenue as a sign of prosperity, especially when it has been wrung out by new and increased burdens upon the people.

Then, too, in addition to the direct results of taxation, as are apparent in revenue receipts, there are indirect results which should not be overlooked, even by so superficial an economist as Senator Afonso Celso. When taxation is low and there is free competition in the market, a tax may be said to fairly represent the total amount paid by the taxpayer. When, however, the taxes are high and the market restricted, the direct revenue received is generally but a very small part of the contribution exacted from him. An open market always affords the opportunity for buying at the lowest prices, and when such goods are imported it is either because of quality, or because their cost and the duties imposed are sufficiently low to enable the purchaser to secure them at a saving in expense. If then the government increases the duties so as to make the imported goods more expensive than those of domestic manufacture, supposing there is no choice in quality, the consumer is compelled to pay the tax or an equivalent amount to the

domestic producer, and the latter course is just as much of a tax as the other. It follows therefore that a protective tariff, such as Brazil now possesses, is equivalent to a heavy tax even on the consumers of domestic products, and that that tax is equivalent to the difference between the prices actually paid and the prices which would rule in an open market. Then, besides, the enhanced cost of living always increases wages, salaries, rents, real estate, and interest—all of which bear heavily on the people. The expenditures and wastes of government are proportionately increased, and the risks of business are made much greater: Society is put upon an artificial and arbitrary basis, speculation is encouraged, and the gulf between poverty and wealth is widened. All these results cannot be other than detrimental to the populace of any country. Such a state of society may be advantageous for the acquisition of individual fortunes, but for the welfare of the masses, whose interests should always be the first concern of the government, it is certainly highly disadvantageous. All other things being equal, that state of society is always best in which taxation is low, competition is open, and the occupations of government are restricted as nearly as possible to the administration of justice. It is essentially a false idea of government which holds that industries should be protected and aided by the public treasury, and that the people should then be taxed to meet the expense. Where these things have been carried out successfully for a time, it has always been through special conditions which should never be overlooked when seeking for some parallel for the course which Brazil is now pursuing. It does not follow that because the United States has been prosperous under a high protective tariff, Brazil will be equally successful. The conditions of life in the two countries are so different that no real comparison can be made between them. In the United States there has been such an enormous immigration, such fertility of soil, such diversity of products, and such a favorable commercial situation to the great consuming markets of Europe, that she has been prosperous in spite of protection. In Brazil, what is there to produce such a result? A meagre, discouraged immigration, a low average of fertility of soil, a restricted number of products, and a less favorable situation—everything in fact, except the few special industries like coffee and rubber production, less favorable than in the United States. And yet Senator Afonso Celso and the school to which he belongs, believe that the economic conditions of the country are sufficiently favorable to warrant heavier taxation, simply because the per capita averages of debt, revenue, and taxation are below those of some of the wealthiest nations of the world. If there are any real grounds for this belief, other than untrustworthy comparisons, would it not be well to have them demonstrated before proceeding further? Let us first have a demonstration of the government's ability to check the growth of public indebtedness. Let us have an instance of a year whose receipts paid its expenses, and left no deficit. And let us have some ocular demonstration of the substantial development of industries, based on private capital and labor, and unaided by funds from the public treasury. And then let us have finance ministers who can tell us about the actual, present condition of the country, without basing their theories on statistics from four to twenty years old.

The total trade of Brazil with the Argentine Republic during the years 1880 and 1881, in round numbers, was as follows:

	1880	1881
Exports to.....	\$6,232,000	\$6,258,000
Imports from....	1,923,000	1,778,000
Totals..	\$4,255,000	\$4,476,000

For some time past the *Journal do Commercio* and others of our colleagues of the Brazilian press have been devoting much time and attention to questions of coffee adulteration in Great Britain, and coffee imposts in France. Our colleagues feel that Brazil is suffering great injustice through these practices—on the one hand through a deterioration in the quality of the article and the consequent prejudice against it; on the other through a restriction in its use, and consequently in the sale there of the Brazilian product. These complaints are perfectly right and just. As long as anything can be sold in Great Britain under the name of coffee, just so long will there be a popular prejudice against the beverage. Great Britain is really a comparatively small consumer of coffee, and there is consequently room for a very considerable extension of the trade in that country. In view of this fact, the desire of Brazil to make her product known and to increase its popularity is in every sense justifiable. It is clear, therefore, that every effort either to deteriorate or enhance the value of coffee among the English people is a matter of great concern in this country, and must continue to be just so long as the export trade of the country is so largely dependent upon its use. So, too, in the case of the French tariffs. There is no question whatever but that these imposts are excessively high, and tend to restrict the use of coffee in that country. Although coffee may not be considered an article of prime necessity, and may justly be selected as an article for taxation, still its great value as a beverage and its excellent dietetic qualities should certainly shield it from the excessive taxes suitable only for luxuries. In this matter the Brazilians are perfectly right in complaining of the high taxes imposed by France, and of the injuries to her foreign trade which they inflict. It must be remembered, however, that these considerations are all on one side of the question—and that, the Brazilian side. Were we to consult the opinions of Englishmen and Frenchmen in this matter, we should probably find that they, too, have grievances, and that they look upon Brazilian practices and the Brazilian tariff as sources of great injury to their interests. The Englishman would tell us that it is all well enough to talk about coffee adulteration, but how about the manufacture of falsified wine, beer and other beverages in Rio de Janeiro, even to the employment of counterfeit labels and brands! Were he well acquainted with local affairs, he would undoubtedly take us around to the Rua do Passio and point out some very important establishments where these falsified beverages are made, and in whose interests the tariff was once raised on imported wines. He might even remind us of the seizure of some of this wine in the street some time ago, and the discovery that the casks bore the brand of a famous exporting house in Europe, and then ask us whether the detection of counterfeiters were ever punished. And then, also, the Frenchman would probably tell us that "low duties on Brazilian coffee are well enough; but how about the enormous tariff on our silks, and wines, and preserved fruits, and scores of other articles, in Brazil?" He would remind us that the duties on silks are so high in Brazil, that only a comparatively small quantity now passes through the custom house, the greater part coming ashore in other ways. And then some aggressive American might step up and remind us that while Brazilian coffee, hides and rubber are admitted into his country free of duty, everything sent back in exchange is taxed to the utmost—some articles, like kerosene, being taxed from 100 to 150 per cent. We are heartily in favor of low duties, but, like the Englishman and Frenchman, we want to see the favors evenly balanced.

THE Senate on the 11th instant was treated to another one of those remarkable financial disquisitions for which Senator Afonso Celso has become famous. The one great cause of all the ills which now prey upon the country, according to this gentleman, is the failure to carry out the new measures of taxation as projected by him when minister of finance. Among these measures was the famous "rincim tax" which created a riot in this city, and led to the wanton shooting of three men. Another one is the "vintem" tax on vacant grounds within this city, about which so much has been said lately. This last tax was estimated to produce 120,000\$ per annum, but it was necessary at first to prepare a tax chart of this city. The surveys for this job have been made and an account for the same has been rendered in the gross amount of 650,000\$, or the proceeds of the tax for over five years. This account has stirred up a great deal of dispute, and has been cut down by commissions to some 300,000\$, or the proceeds of the tax for three years. In view of these interesting little instances of the measures advocated by the Minas Senator, it is not at all surprising to find him advocating the addition of 10 per cent. to the duties received from imports, and claiming that it will result in no prejudice to importation nor hardship to consumers. According to the economic doctrines of this gentleman, an increase in import duties is equivalent to an increase in receipts. He believes that taxation is one of the elements of life, as necessary as light, food and water, and that a people can not be prosperous and happy without it. To assist a people to become rich and progressive, it is the duty of a paternal government to pile on the taxes. When they become accustomed to one burden, then it should be increased at once, and another should be imposed as a counterbalance. From his political system we gather that a government's great duty is to tax the people and to spend all the money it can wring out of them, and all which it can manage to borrow from outside parties. There is no such element as economy in the whole system. When the expenditures have outgrown the receipts, then the deficiencies must be met by new taxes and new loans; a reduction in expenditure is never recommended. There must be no diminution in the number of official parasites who live upon unearned salaries; there must be no curtailment in the bounties bestowed upon favorites; there must be no check upon the wastes of administration; and there must be no relaxation in the effort to keep up false appearances and pretensions. The expenditure must go on intact, however the money is to be obtained. Although there is an actual decrease in the revenue from imports, more taxation is expected to increase the receipts. Although the people are groaning under the burdens imposed upon them, new taxes are to be imposed as a measure of paternal solicitude and assistance. And although the industries of the country are either waning, or are threatened with destruction, the only practical relief that can be devised is a direct increase in the cost of living. The burdens, it is to be admitted, fall very lightly upon the rich, for their silks and satins, as was admitted in the Senate on the 10th instant, are in great part smuggled into the country without other fee than a petty *douane* to the vigilant customs official. The poor devil, who owns neither house nor land, who takes no pleasure trip to Paris, and who holds no public office, is the one upon whom the tax-gatherer's hand is laid most heavily. His shoes—if he wears such a luxury—his coarse hat, his coarse shirt, his coarse trousers, his light, food and drink, are all taxed to the last extreme. And then Senator Afonso Celso wanted to make him pay 20 reis to the government

every time he rested his feet by a ride upon the street cars. While his rich neighbor easily smuggles in his silks and laces, this poor devil pays a tax of over one hundred per cent. on the kerosene which he uses. If he carries burdens upon his head to gain a scant living he is compelled to take out a license and pay a tax of some 75000\$ a year, while the rich planter who makes the laws is able to hold square leagues of land without paying one *rincim* on it in the way of taxation. A little more of this theory of government, of which Senator Afonso Celso is a fair exponent, and the millennium will be upon us—a millennium in which there will be none but the non-taxpaying patrician to reap the fruits and bear the burdens of government. "Ten per cent." will then be finally appreciated by those to whom it is now meaningless, for it will be simply the removal of the shilling from one pocket to the other.

In discussing a question relating to the Leopoldina railway of Minas Geraes, specially with reference to the freight tariffs now in force, Deputy Soares, of that province, took occasion on the 6th instant to call attention to some very suggestive statistics on the present state of Brazilian agriculture. We may not all draw the same conclusion in this matter, but from one conclusion—the backward state of the industry—there is and can be no escape. In the course of his remarks Deputy Soares made the following significant statements:

We have found ourselves under the melancholy necessity of importing breadstuffs for the port of Rio de Janeiro alone to the enormous amount of 35,555,780\$ during the last three years, as I am about to prove.

It is said that a country like Brazil which possesses a soil so exuberantly fertile that it could export cereals for the whole world, should be obliged to import cereals, through the port of Rio de Janeiro alone, to the enormous amount which I have just mentioned. (Cheers)

SR. SOARES BRANDÃO.—It even imports American land!

SR. SOARES.—I will just prove from statistics the value and the quantities imported. From 1879 to 1881 the port of Rio de Janeiro received the following:

	quantity.	average rates.
Lucerne (<i>alfalfa</i>)....	79,761 b's	1.595:2208
Rice.....	461,648 s'cs	3.462:360
Beans and other cereals	13,789,766 kls.	1.654:772
Maize.....	331,962 s'cs	1.493:829
Wheat.....	180,184 "	630:644
Wheat flour.....	1,196,757 brls.	20.344:809
Lard.....	282,108 kegs	5.218:998
Bacon, salted or pickled	275,772 kls.	126:555
Tea.....	293,781 "	1,028:233550

Total..... 35,555,780\$500

I make no mention of maize husks, for cigarettes, which are imported in large quantities from Portugal; instead, which we might export but are importing instead; cheese, potatoes, garlic, jerked beef from the River Plate, and even wooden toothpicks (*palitos*) gentlemen!

A MEMBER.—Toothpicks and broomsticks!

SR. SOARES.—Broomsticks as well!

The foregoing is no fancy picture, unfortunately, and has been patent for some time to those who have closely followed the course of events in this country. We will undertake to say that the figures for this year, if they could be obtained, would even show a relative increase in the imports of the four articles first named in the list. Sr. Soares adduced these facts and figures as an indictment against the high tariffs charged on the Leopoldina railway. It may be that these rates are excessive; we do not doubt they are. But we would like to ask Sr. Soares if the district tapped by the Leopoldina railway is the only one where alfalfa, rice, beans and maize can be grown in abundance? Are there not acres upon acres in the immediate vicinity of Rio where all of these might be grown? What is done with the countless acres—the *vargem*—of the whole Parahyba valley? Will Sr. Soares, or any one else venture to assert that this fertile valley, traversed for miles by the Dom Pedro II railway, produces one-

thousandth part of the cereals that might be drawn from its soil by intelligent cultivation? Then take a great part of the high lands skirting the coast in this vicinity, what a field for the cultivation of all the small products which form so important an item in the imports from abroad! Rio has no need to go so far as Minas Geraes, with the fertile valleys of the coast range just at her doors. Then there is the entire province of São Paulo, in which all these food products can be produced, in many cases abundantly, in others to an extent amply sufficient to meet local demands. And yet the district of Campinas, so widely noted for its wealth and fertility, actually imports nearly all the food it consumes. With all the little fertile nooks and corners which are to be found on every plantation, there is not the least necessity for importing a single one of these articles, outside of those, like tea, which require special cultivation; and yet even the planters themselves are dependent upon imports for a great part of the food which is placed upon their tables from day to day. In one of the most charming and fertile valleys in this vicinity, where we have seen many of the fruits of the temperate zone growing and where all the products of the garden and small farm can be produced with ease, we have seen hotel tables wholly supplied with imported articles of food. There were potatoes from Portugal, beans from France, small fruits from France and England, rice from India, bread from American flour, tea from China, and condensed milk from Switzerland. We have known Portuguese potatoes to be shipped to this place, twelve miles by water and then some twenty miles on mule back, notwithstanding the fact that a little labor and a little care would make the place an exporter of potatoes instead of an importer. Railway tariffs certainly have an influence on all questions of this character, but there are other important requisites beside low freights. If Sr. Soares will tell his constituents just what these requisites are, and induce them to adopt them, he will soon find the railways coming to terms.

THE NEW WATER WORKS.

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9th October, 1882.

To the Editor of THE RIO NEWS:

Dear Sir.—Seeing in THE RIO NEWS of the 5th instant an editorial article containing some personal appreciations on the present state of the liquidation of the contract of the Empreza A. Gabrielli with the imperial government, I can not but feel grateful to you for the interest which you have taken for years in the gradual progress of the works, and for the spirited way in which you discuss the matter. I think it my duty, however, to declare that you have evidently been led into error when you state that "the claims against the government under this contract amount to about 1,500,000\$, the greater part of which promises to be lost." Without entering, for the present, into any discussion as to whether these and other figures mentioned in your article are correct, I limit myself to the declaration that the Empreza, far from giving up or considering as lost any of the just claims which it has already presented and will have yet to present, is on the contrary fully decided to press them on more energetically than ever.

By inserting this declaration in the next issue of your highly esteemed paper, you will sincerely oblige, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

JOSÉ AMÉRICO DOS SANTOS,
Representative of A. Gabrielli.

It is to be expected, of course, that the Empreza still continues to entertain hopes of collecting all its just claims, and designs

to prosecute them energetically. The real question, however, is: what bases are there for such a hope? If the government were acting in good faith, how is it that the inventories were not all made and the accounts all liquidated at the time marked for the expiration of the guarantee? That guarantee expired on the 27th ultimo; how is it that the deposited security has not been returned? The government knew perfectly well when the contract would terminate; how is it that all the final measurements have not been made so that the accounts could be liquidated? If there are good reasons for hoping that all the claims will be paid, how is it that so large an amount still remains unpaid, and that the government is so dilatory in attending to the matter? Some of these claims will be paid, as a matter of course; but when the government employs bitter enemies of the contractor in responsible positions, to whom these claims must be referred for examination, what hope is there that full justice will be rendered? And then, after months, possibly years, of delay, what hope is there that the government will reimburse the contractor for the losses incurred by the loss of his capital during all this time? It matters little whether the amount involved is 1,000,000\$, or 1,500,000\$; either sum is large enough to make every day's retention a matter of considerable loss.

In this criticism, it is advisable to say, we are actuated by the desire to keep our foreign readers well informed, as well as to advocate what we believe to be the just claims of an individual. It is clear from the events of late years that government contracts in Brazil are becoming very risky enterprises, and it is time that foreign capitalists should know that fact. Complaints have been made here over and over again, but to no purpose whatever. To a government official a contract has only one purpose: the carrying out of certain projects on the government's own terms. The contractor is used simply to furnish the money and do the work; his rights under a contract are neither respected nor observed. He undertakes to accomplish a specified work for a specified sum of money, and then the government deliberately ties his hands, makes him subordinate to official engineers and fiscals, delays his work at will, fines him for infractions of contract caused by its own fiscalizing regulations, changes the plans at pleasure, adopts its own standards of measurement, and then delays or denies payment at its own sovereign will. The government never admits that when it enters into a contract with a private party, that party becomes its equal before the law. On the contrary the government carries its sovereignty into the execution of all its contracts. And then when the contractor seeks to secure justice in the courts, the government forbids the interference of the court, as was done during the administration of Buarque de Macedo. If other proofs are needed of the justness of these criticisms, we may also refer to the action of the government in the contract for the surface drainage works of this city, in those for the construction of the Bahia, Pernambuco and Rio Grande railways, and in the multitude of small contracts with which every one is familiar.

The only conclusion to be drawn from these occurrences is, that a contract with the Brazilian government has become a very risky piece of business.

From the *Journal de Commercio*, October 10th.

EXERCÍCIOS FINDOS.

Another schedule of debts due under past budgets has just been laid upon the table of the Chamber of Deputies that the necessary credit may be granted, because the accounts through which these expenses ought to have passed at the time they were

authorized have left no available surplus. This new list was presented six days ago by the minister of war, and embraces no less than 126 items, amounting altogether to 192,722\$676, representing upwards of 150 creditors.

Truly this is a singular document, which ever way we may look at it. Here are debts which date from 1865, 1868, and 1869, and range from insignificant amounts to tens of contos. Here are amounts of 1\$210, 3\$200, 4\$280, 7\$560, and of 10, 20\$8, 20,845\$8, 334,10\$ and 39,410\$. The creditors are companies, contractors, purveyors, reserves, and rank and file. The state is a debtor, in this list alone, for pay, rations, bounties to volunteers, officers' funerals, medical treatment, medicines, transport of troops, uniforms, repairs, water and lights.

This is quite enough to show the amount of disorder which exists. The longstanding of some of the debts reveals a considerable and unjustifiable delay in the payments. At the same time the miscellaneous nature of the amounts shows only too plainly how, in several accounts, the legal limits have been exceeded without the necessary supplies having been duly provided. No less serious is it, that only now, at the end of two legislative sessions, and when the General Assembly is actually in prorogation, the proposal to which we allude has been presented, and that, save by special efforts, it can no longer become law this year.

Can any one for one moment suppose that the proper parties were ignorant that the government was owing tens of contos for uniforms and repairs to barracks? Why, then, the debts being acknowledged, did not the government take steps to be able to pay them? The state seems to think little of a delay of one, two, or three years in the payment of a debt when, instead of being the creditor, it is the debtor. Probably it thinks that its credit does not suffer on that account. This is a deplorable mistake. That can not become the state which would be regarded as very shady on the part of a private individual who had any self-respect. Want of punctuality in payment necessarily involves the cessation of credit, and the worst bargains are inseparable from discredit. When once it is notorious that the state habitually fails to pay its debts, save after wearying formalities and the most unremitting exertions on the part of its creditors, practical men necessarily take this *onus* into account when calculating their profits, for some margin must necessarily enter into all bargains in order to provide for the contingency of this hazardous element; and the state, in injuring those misguided private individuals who rely on punctual payment, only injures itself, as sad experience is ever reducing the number of its victims.

Over and over again have we pointed out how this rooted and inveterate vice of our administration, by upsetting the calculations of those conscientious people who contract with the state, naturally tends to restrict the field of honest competition. It is indispensable that a stop should be put to this. It is not even decent that while the estimates, with two single exceptions during 40 years, have always been closed with an excess of expenditure over that voted, the state should be owing petty amounts, which are not worth the trouble of the numerous entries which they entail.

To lavish with the right hand thousands of contos without legal authorization, while the left scruples to disburse the pay due to the rank and file, the pension of the reserve, or the bounty of the volunteer, can never be the result of a system of accounts which is clear, simple, and rational.

The recent statute which in certain cases compels the application for a credit to liquidate the debts of past estimates is as

applicable to the ministry of war as to that of finance. Meantime the latter, after having submitted to parliament schedules of debts of this description amounting to no less than 40,000\$, lost no time in asking for, and obtaining a credit for 60,000\$ in order to provide, with the excess, for the payment of those which were in process of liquidation. It was an exception to the rule, but the power which could make it, made it. Now the ministry of finance is, or ought to be, the authority in all matters pertaining to the public accounts, and if this course has been approved by parliament, we do not know why all the other ministerial departments should not follow its example.

In any case we hope that, more fortunate than some of his colleagues, the minister of war may succeed in getting his proposal voted as promptly as his creditors, in a greater degree than ourselves even, wish. When proposals of such a nature have, for over six months, been before the Chamber of Deputies without having merited one single discussion, we shall be right in considering the voting of one of these measures as a fact worthy of special mention.

MEXICAN COTTON MILLS.

According to the *Textile Record*, of Philadelphia, there are nine cotton mills in the valley of Mexico, consuming annually 9,730,000 pounds of raw cotton; 17 in the state of Puebla, consuming 1,540,000 pounds; and one in the state of Queretaro, consuming 2,400,000 pounds, or a total annual consumption for the valley and the two states named of 22,640,000 pounds. These figures, although official, are thought to be fully 25 per cent below the actual consumption. A duty upon manufacturers, levied by the government, tends to keep the returns down to a minimum. When the numerous railroads now in process of construction are completed it is confidently believed that cotton manufacturing will become a leading industry in the republic. The great drawback to the industry has been the want of cheap and sufficient transportation. The raw material used in the mills is brought from remote parts—Texas furnishing a good deal of it—by pack and wagon trains, and as the finished product has to be distributed by the same costly means of transportation, we can easily understand why cotton manufacturing in Mexico has been of slow growth.

TARIFF CURIOSITIES.

As a curious instance of the working of the tariff as at present constituted in the United States we quote the following from the *New York World*: "We feel a kind of obligation to Mr. M. S. Kerrigan, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Morocco leather manufacturers' national exchange, who yesterday unconsciously let the cat of class interest out of the bag of American morocco. Twenty-five per cent. is what the comparatively modest Mr. Kerrigan demands in the way of protection upon his product. Let us see. Mr. Kerrigan says there are 125 morocco factories in this country, that they employ 12,000 hands, that \$10,000,000 of capital is invested in them and that their annual output is of the value of \$30,000,000. The product for which this price is paid annually could of course be got, in the absence of a protective tariff, for 25 per cent. less, or for \$22,750,000, the difference of \$7,250,000 being the saving which would be effected to the purchasers of morocco. In point of fact the saving would be greater by the diminished price of such morocco as is now imported; but let that pass. The interest which could be got for the \$10,000,000 of capital invested in morocco manufactures, at 4 per cent., would amount to \$400,000. Suppose that the laborers engaged in the business, skilled and unskilled, men and boys together, receive an annual average wage of \$550 each, which is probably above the mark? According to Mr. Kerrigan there are 12,000 of them. 12,000 x \$550 = \$6,600,000. Suppose the people of the United States vote \$400,000 a year direct from the Treasury to the manufacturers as interest on their capital, and \$6,600,000 to the operatives in lieu of their wages? That would make exactly \$7,000,000. But the cost of keeping them at work making morocco is \$7,250,000. The people of the United States would therefore save exactly \$250,000 a year by paying the morocco manufacturers and operatives their wages *not* to make morocco, instead of paying them indirectly by tariff subsidies to make morocco."

The appropriations by the United States Congress for the current year amount to a total of \$265,923,065, including the sum of \$100,000,000 in pensions for soldiers disabled during the civil war.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The province of Piahy has a public debt of 110,577\$392.

—The comet was first seen at Pará on the morning of the 21st ult.

—An epidemic of small pox is raging with great intensity at Rio Grande.

—The sessions of the provincial assembly of Rio de Janeiro have been prorogued to the 20th inst.

—According to the *Monitor Campesino* an epidemic of small-pox is now raging in the city of Campos.

—Ninety slaves have recently been liberated at Campos through the aid of the emancipation fund.

—The custom house receipts at Pará during the first 15 days of September amounted to 444-35\$8146.

—The official valuation (*prima*) on cotton at Santos during the first week of this month was 520ress per kilo.

—The last report of the Mogiana railway directors shows the coffee production along that line during the last year, 1881-82, to have been 1,995,553 arrobas.

—According to the *Echo Municipal*, Cachoeira, São Paulo, a large deposit of kaoline has been recently discovered on a plantation in Sant'Anna dos Treze, municipality of Ribeirão.

—The provincial assembly of Rio de Janeiro has voted permission for the collection of provincial export duties on coffee at Maranhão, so that it can be shipped for foreign markets directly from that port.

—The president of the province of Rio de Janeiro has been authorized to establish provincial custom houses on all the public roads and railways leading into adjoining provinces for the collection of the provincial export duties.

—The sea serpent was last seen, in the vicinity of the Bahia do Sol, according to the *Diário de Belém*, of Pará. Its length was estimated to be 100 meters, but the *Diário* had not received full particulars up to latest accounts.

—The *Diário de Santos* gives the September receipts of coffee at Santos as 191,432 bags, making a total of 373,369 bags for the quarter since July 1, against 322,105 bags in the same period of 1881, and 187,688 bags in the same period of 1880.

—The telegraph extension from Curitiba, in Campo Largo, province of Paraná, was formally opened on the 8th inst. The line has an extension of 32 kilometers, and is to be further extended to Guarapuava, and thence to the frontier of the province.

—The *Diário de Santos* gives the exports of coffee from Santos during the month of September as 86,034 bags, including 1,495 bags to domestic ports. The September exports of last year amounted to 122,732 bags, and those of 1880 to 62,930 bags.

—There were 190 slaves liberated in the province of Pará during 1881 through the generosity of their masters and the efforts of the slaves themselves. This makes a total of 2,700 liberations since 1871, of which only 258 were freed through the aid of the emancipation fund.

—A dance at Rio Claro on the evening of the 1st inst. was the scene of a quarrel between three brothers named Hoppe, and a man named Eugenio, the latter being the aggressor. The result was the death of the latter from a knife thrust by Luiz Hoppe.

—The elections in the 3rd district of Rio Grande to fill the vacancy occasioned by the transfer of Deputy Henrique Avila to the Senate, has resulted in no choice, none of the candidates securing an absolute majority. The second contest will be between Drs. Severino Ribeiro and Antero d'Avila.

—The provincial government of São Paulo is trying to compel the deposit of the proceeds of the Ypiranga batteries in the provincial treasury. The money would help the province along amazingly. There is some faint suspicion in the matter, however, that the money is not considered to be in proper care just now.

—A man named Manoel Paes da Silva, residing in the parish of Carangola, Rio de Janeiro, was killed by one of his slaves on the morning of the 28th ult. The assassin crept into the room where he was sleeping and shot him with his own gun. Silva lingered until the 4th inst. The slave was captured and has confessed his guilt.

—An amendment to the provincial budget of Rio de Janeiro continues the export duty on coffee at 4 per cent. and increases that on sugar to 3 per cent. The duty on sugar is to be collected on exports to other provinces as well as on those to foreign countries, and in this sense the city of Rio de Janeiro is to be considered in the same category with the provinces.

—The August receipts of the Corumbá custom house, Mato Grosso, amounted to 17,315\$722.

—The September receipts of the postoffice of Pernambuco, city and province, amounted to 13,571\$460.

—The S. Paulo market received 369,538 liters of rice, sweet and white potatoes, farinha de mandioca, corn flour, beans, maize, polvilho and pinkão, during September, upon which a market import tax of 739\$076 was levied.

—The September receipts of the São Paulo postoffice amounted to 6,400\$562 for the city and 22,661\$412 for the whole province, against 6,447\$450 and 22,310\$160 respectively for the same month of last year.

—The September receipts of the revenue offices at Pernambuco were as follows:

	1882	1881
Custom house . . .	1,155,482\$745	1,108,881\$603
Recebedoria geral.	60,326\$670	57,854\$538
Consulado prof'l.	105,202\$057	185,439\$079

—The 1883-84 budget now under discussion in the provincial assembly of Minas Geraes, estimates the receipts of that province at 3,049,940\$000 and the expenditures at 3,087,710\$976. The president is to be authorized to make one loan of 500,000\$ at 6 per cent. for the purpose of funding the floating debt of the province.

RAILROAD NOTES

—The Campinas tramway carried 9,769 passengers during September.

—During the month of September the São Paulo tramways carried 44,336 passengers, of which 6,915 were carried gratis.

—The September receipts of the Caraguá railway amounted to 71,372\$. The expenditures are not published.

—The bill authorizing an expenditure of 367,000\$ in repairs on the Dom Pedro II line entered 3rd reading in the Senate on the 9th inst.

—The August receipts of the "Residência S. Francisco" railway amounted to 44,723\$410, and the expenditures to 43,938\$541, leaving a surplus of 3,784\$869.

—The project authorizing the government to grant a 6 per cent. guarantee on an extension of the Mogiana railway to the Rio Grande, passed to 2nd reading in the Senate on the 11 inst.

—The purchaser of the Cantagallo railway, Sr. Manoel Gomes de Oliveira, has asked permission to deposit his 25,000\$ security in the provincial treasury of Rio de Janeiro, according to the terms of the contract.

—An amendment to the department of agriculture budget was adopted by the Senate on the 3rd inst. authorizing an expenditure of 150,000\$ in new surveys of the Moleira and Mamoré railways. That nightmare of a railway project seems to be irrepressible.

—A bill was introduced into the Rio provincial assembly on the 26th ult. authorizing the president to call for new tenders for the purchase of the Cantagallo railway in case the present negotiations fall through. The road has been sold under the old bill, but the purchaser does not seem able to fulfil the conditions, and is now seeking various measures of relief. The purchase seems to have been made without money.

—According to a recent report of the directors of the Mogiana railway, the total receipts of that line for the half year ending June 30 were 469,461\$000 and the total expenditures 235,528\$362, leaving a surplus of 233,932\$638. The receipts showed a decrease of 200,000\$ from those of the preceding half year, and an increase of 33,000\$ over those of the corresponding period of 1881. A dividend of 9\$200 per share was declared for the half year.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the *Buenos Ayres Standard*, September 28.

—The culture of corn is already spread over a great area of land, and we receive this year barley from Mendoza which could compete with the best Chilean.

—The first sod of the Western of Santa Fé railway was turned in Rosario some days ago. This line promises to be a paying concern, as it will tap all the wheat-growing settlements and will have a large grain traffic almost from the start.

—The official trade returns of the republic for the year 1881 have just been issued. They show a slight falling off, partly accounted for by the increased consumption of home grown articles, such as sugar, wine, etc., thus curtailing the imports of same.

—An English copper merchant is now in the interior, gathering information as to the quality and production of that article in this country, and he has been much astonished at the large shipments of the ore, and also at the fact that much of the richest copper sold in England as Chilean is in reality from the interior of this country.

—The official report of the public health of the city for the past fortnight announces some improvement, but the fourteen days have been fatal to high society, which has lost many distinguished members. Measles are rife among the children. Our medical colleague gives the authorities solemn warning about the filthy state of the "convencillos," with the hot weather close at hand.

—Considerable excitement has prevailed in Bolsa circles owing to the national Chamber of Deputies having passed a bill to increase the capital of the National Bank, the professed object being to arrest the wild speculation in its shares. As the shareholders have not been consulted in the matter, the bill has provoked general opposition in the market, and the shareholders will petition the Senate to reject the measure.

—The British community has been horrified by the brutal murder of a most estimable English lady (Mrs. Perrens) in Curientes, by a laborer in her employ whom she had reared from boyhood through pure charity, and an accomplice. Never has society been startled by a more hideous crime, and the markish sentimentality that exists in this country against capital punishment renders it very doubtful whether the criminals, who have confessed their crime, will be executed.

From the Buenos Aires Herald, October 1.

—Dr. Vicente Villamayor has been appointed provincial minister of finance.

—The sum of \$249,000 m.c., has been collected for the statue of Garibaldi in this city.

—The American yacht *Galina* arrived at Montevideo on the 28th. from Rio Janeiro.

—Last Monday the works for the prolongation of the Western railway from Lobos to Saladillo were commenced.

—The first lot of new wool sold at \$85 mpc to Mr. La Plancha. It was a small lot of 105 arrobas, and rather light.

—The custom house produced to-day (30th) the sum of \$144,812.42, making a total for the month of September of \$1,239,689.37.

—The custom house of Buenos Aires has given from the 1st of January up till the 30th inst. the total sum of \$12,062,274.34.

—A German colony of 500 families is to be established on the coast of the Arroyo. Acaragua on the Upper Uruguay.

—Sometime during next month the national guards of Entre Rios are to be paid their salaries for the years 1873, 1876 and 1881.

—The Lanus deposits have finally been passed over to the national government by the notary Sr. Navarro in the sum voted by Congress \$800,000.

—The state of the camps is, on the whole, good, and farmers have little to complain of, except, in some instances, of the comparatively small increase in their flocks.

—The national government has been offered the Argentine part of the Transandine telegraph for the sum of \$200,000, a sum so enormous that practical constructors declare that it could be erected for one quarter of this sum.

—We have heard it stated that the Rt. Rev. Dr. Sterling, Bishop of the Falklands, intends fixing his official residence at Flores, where there already is a chapel and a flourishing school connected with his lordship's work.

—The judge of the 1st instance has issued a warrant for the arrest of Sr. Chivalleri, the cashier of the foreign office, on the charge of embezzling the sum of \$1.60,000, approximately, of public money destined for the payment of the diplomatic and consular corps of this republic.

—The Paraguayan government has been authorized by its Congress to obtain a loan of \$1,250,000 in order to establish a school of arts and trades, and for the establishment of a telegraphic line between Asuncion and the Paso de la Patria.

—The news from the department of Florida, Banda Oriental, shows that locusts have appeared there in considerable numbers. There is likewise considerable loss among horned cattle in the department of San Jose.

—The total number of bales of wool sailed and engaged to date is 246,683, against

207,456 in 1881
210,614 in 1880
208,520 in 1879
214,833 in 1878

The export of mize continues, and the total quantity sailed to date is 991,162 bags.

—The Western railway last year made the gross sum of \$41,824,317.50, the working expenses have reached \$21,015,030, thus leaving a net income of \$20,809,287.50. The capital of this railway is recognized in the sum of \$229,824,182.62. There have been opened to the public 349 kilometres. It has carried 1,225,154 first and second class passengers, and 229,686,992 kilogrammes of cargo, and 8,250,061 kilos. of parcels. The telegraph department shows a loss. The telegraph line has an extension of 2,108 kilometres, with a capital of \$9,178,142.58.

—The British Hospital bazaar, which has just closed, has proved a magnificent success, greatly surpassing every effort of the kind heretofore made by the English-speaking communities resident in this city, and resulting greatly to the benefit of the charitable institution it was intended to aid. Argentines and foreigners of every nationality joined heartily with their English-speaking fellow residents to make the effort as successful as one as possible, and we are not shooting above the mark when we say the receipts of each of the four nights verged upon a thousand pounds sterling.

—From a very able review, made by our colleague *La Libertad*, of the *Almanac* of the national finance minister, we take the following important data:—

The consolidated debt of the republic on the 31st Dec. 1880 was. \$1 57,079,979
On the 31st December, 1881..... 79,401,141

Increase..... 22,321,162

The increase arose from the two loans of the province of Buenos Aires which by the law of federalization passed over to the charge of the nation, and from the national loan for railways on the 2nd October, 1881.

To the actual state of affairs we have to add:—

Loan for expropriation and continuation of the Riachuelo works. \$1 4,000,000

Do, for the sanitary works of the capital..... 8,000,000

Do, for payment of the Provincial Bank..... 16,000,000

Do, for the payment of arrears of debts authorized by the laws of Nov. 3, 1881, and Sept. 5, 1882, in treasury bills..... 4,000,000

Do, to pay the claims of the National Bank..... 450,000

Public funds created for the payment of civil and military services in the war of independence, and against Brazil..... 1,000,000

Do, for purchase of the Lanus deposits..... 800,000

\$1 34,250,000

Debt on the 31st Dec. 1881..... 79,401,141

Loans emitted and authorization to emit others amounting to..... 113,651,147

There is moreover:—

Pending the resolution of Congress authorization for the Municipality of the capital to make a loan for..... 9,100,000

Awaiting the resolution of the Senate, authorization for the executive to emit funds to augment the funds of the National Bank..... 8,571,000

Yesterday another project was presented to the Senate by the Executive, requesting permission to emit, in public bonds, for the port of Buenos Aires, up to..... 20,000,000

Probable total..... \$1 156,322,141

result of the public consolidated debt on December 31, 1882.

From the Buenos Aires Standard, September 28.

BOLIVIAN RAILWAYS.

The latest advices from Bolivia announce that a most important railway project has been presented to the government by two Argentine citizens. The latest trade of the Argentine Republic with Bolivia has increased ten-fold since the past three years, owing to the complete stoppage of all communication between the interior provinces of Bolivia and her sea-board on the Pacific. The Chilians, at a time when the cherished hope of settling all difficulties with Peru, contemplated the construction of a railway through the Bolivian provinces to Tarapaca, the future Chilean province. The idea was merely the conception of Dr. Viena Mackenna's brain, and could not be carried out, owing to the war. Since then it has often been mooted to extend the Argentine Central Northern Railway to the southern provinces of Bolivia, and there are, no doubt, great probabilities that the Argentine executive will carry the extension to the limits of the republic, if the Bolivian government take steps in the building of a railway to meet the Argentine Central Northern.

Messrs. Rovetto and Antrecochea, both Argentines, have now proposed through our esteemed friend, Dr. Quijarro, to the Bolivian government the construction of a railway from La Paz to the frontier of Suquia, joining with the Argentine Central Northern. The city of Sucre would be connected by a branch line with the railway, as well as Potosi. Thus the railroad would start from the centre to the south of Bolivia.

The branch line from Sucre to the main line would be a tolerably easy work, but the extension to Potosi would have to take a round-about route to avoid the great difficulties of the surrounding mountainous country. The proposed line would thus unite the principal cities and richest districts

in the republic of Bolivia and facilitate the transport of the greater bulk of produce to the port of Rosario along the Central Northern and Central Argentine. At present all the produce of the southern provinces of Bolivia is transported by bullock-carts to Tucuman, a long and tedious journey, and most expensive means of transport.

The contractors propose to construct the line without any subvention from the government and request no guarantee whatever on the capital. They only ask for the concession of 24 square degrees of national lands. The government thus goes to no expense, and the railway will be worth more to Bolivia than all her public lands.

The proposal of the concessionaires is so advantageous that the Bolivian government and Congress will, no doubt, immediately sanction it; but the success of this enterprise hinges more on the foreign capital than on the efforts of the Bolivian government. The Bravo scheme is yet remembered by all, and that gigantic concession fell through, owing to want of confidence abroad.

The great hitch of the moment is the war with Chile. Until the present state of international affairs is cleared, very little hope can be entertained. Bolivia must first make peace, and then launch the business in Europe. Bolivia's only hope of revival is centered in the commercial union of relations with this country. The Mamore-Madeira attempt to find a market in the Atlantic by the fluvial route of the Amazonas, was a lamentable failure. The Bravo scheme was a failure, and even the Pacific route before the war broke out was a prolonged failure. The isolated position of Bolivia, hemmed in on all sides, has stemmed the progress of the country and kept it in a stationary condition. Bolivian statesmen must look forward to this country and foster every enterprise that tends to bring commercial and political relations closer together. Both Bolivia and the Argentine Republic should lend all their moral influence to the present railway scheme, which means a regeneration for the Mediterranean republic.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

PUBLIC BURDENS.

A correspondent of the *New York Times*, writing from Paris under date of July 31, gives the following figures as the present financial condition of France as compared with other European nations and the United States. The first table exhibits the average annual expenditure of the various nations, as represented by the appropriations made for each year's expenses, in the national budget:

	frances
France has a budget of.....	4,040,526,000
Germany.....	2,334,000,000
Russia.....	2,632,000,000
England.....	1,938,750,000
Austria-Hungary.....	1,660,000,000
Spain.....	1,546,000,000
Italy.....	1,540,000,000
United States.....	1,525,000,000
Belgium.....	1,245,000,000
Holland.....	1,209,000,000

The population of these several states is thus put down:

	inhabitants
Russia.....	85,085,000
United States.....	49,398,000
German Empire.....	42,727,000
Austria-Hungary.....	37,742,000
France.....	35,561,000
England.....	34,886,000
Italy.....	28,210,000
Spain.....	16,626,000
Belgium.....	5,536,000
Holland.....	4,037,000

The tax to meet these annual expenditures paid per inhabitant is as follows:

	frances
The Frenchman.....	109
The American.....	59
The Englishman.....	58
The Italian.....	56
The Dutchman.....	55
The German.....	54
The Belgian.....	46
The Austrian.....	44
The Russian.....	36
The Spaniard.....	33

The national debt of each of these countries is stated to be as follows:

	frances
France.....	30,997,000,000
England.....	10,386,000,000
United States.....	11,150,000,000
Austria-Hungary.....	11,150,000,000
Spain.....	14,500,000,000
Italy.....	10,660,660,000
Russia.....	6,797,000,000
Germany.....	4,254,000,000
Holland.....	1,996,000,000
Belgium.....	1,127,000,000

And by division it appears that:

	frances
Every Frenchman owes.....	859
Every Englishman owes.....	579
Every Dutchman owes.....	524
Every Spaniard owes.....	376
Every Italian owes.....	365
Every Austrian owes.....	206
Every American owes.....	253
Every Belgian owes.....	211
Every German owes.....	99
Every Russian owes.....	94

The writer states with regard to the figures put down for the United States that he may not be correct, but concerning the other countries he writes from official statements. The figures given concerning the United States need serious amendment. Thus, the population figure should read \$9,152,000, instead of 49,398,000. The budget for 1882-83 should read 1,329,615,025 francs, instead of 1,525,000,000; the annual expenditure per inhabitant should be 27 francs, instead of 59; the national debt of the United States is 8,375,272,165 francs, instead of 11,150,000,000; and the American per capita is 177 francs, instead of 253 francs. These corrections materially alter the statement so far as it relates to this country. Reduced to Federal money the differences are striking. They are: The population, 1880, is..... 50,150,000
Instead of..... 49,398,000
National debt, July, 1882, is..... \$1,075,054,433
Instead of..... 2,330,000,000
Annual expenditures..... 265,923,065
Instead of..... 308,200,000
Annual expenditure per capita..... 5
Instead of..... 12
National debt per capita is less than..... 35
Instead of over..... 50

The financial condition of Germany, as compared with that of France, is vastly superior. Every German pays on an average 54 francs taxes annually, and owes 99 francs, while every Frenchman pays annually 109 francs and owes 859 francs. The peril of such a situation more than anything else compelled France to take up part in the Egyptian war, and to engage in no further military enterprises like the late disastrous one at Tunis. In fact, France is compelled to retrench.

LOCAL NOTES.

—The comet is said to have affected the price of salt at Ushaba.

—The second coffee exposition opens to-day at the rooms of the Typographia Nacional.

—A telegram from Paranaaguá on the 6th inst. reports the sanitary state there as excellent, there being then only two cases of small pox.

—At a meeting of the German Evangelical Society of this city on the 8th inst. the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: F. Palm, president; G. Massow, secretary; A. Mathiesen, treasurer.

—An amendment to the general budget was introduced into the Senate by Senator Junqueira on the 9th inst., limiting the "10 per cent. addition" to imported cotton fabrics, boots and shoes, hats, furniture and oils, and decreasing the export duty on domestic products by 1 per cent. when exported in sacks of home manufacture.

—At a meeting of the directors of the Monte Pio Geral on the 7th inst. it was resolved to make a reduction in the salaries of employees. This reduction, added to those of the medical commission and rental of offices, amounts to an aggregate of 12,000\$ per annum. It is beginning to appear that the refusal to entertain criticisms eleven years ago, was almost, if not quite nearly, a mistake.

—In order to escape executing the condemned murderer Carballo, for whose crime the two Italians Volpi and Patrone were so cruelly tortured, the Uruguayan President has asked the legislature for permission to commute death penalties to imprisonment for twenty years, with hard labor. Carballo was an ensign in the army, and is receiving considerable sympathy from the Montevideo public.

—A priest named Guiseppe Manfredi was arrested on the 7th inst. in this city for the crime of violating a child of ten years. The arrest was made on a requisition from the chief of police of the province of Rio de Janeiro and upon a warrant issued by the *jefe de distrito* of Itaboraí. The crime was committed at Porto das Caixas. The priest was trying to leave the country under an assumed name.

—We are indebted to the publishers of *The Brooklyn Eagle*, United States flagship *Brooklyn*, for a copy of the "imperial edition" of that interesting little journal, published in commemoration of the entertainment given on board in this port on August 26th, at which the Emperor was present. The many friends of the officers who have enjoyed hospitalities of the *Brooklyn*, will receive *The Eagle* with the liveliest pleasure.

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24	Tagus.....	Bahia, Pernambuco, Lisbon, Vigo, Southampton, Havre & Antwerp.

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Dillon.....	Oct. 8th
Nazareth.....	" 15th
Philet.....	" 22th
Fiscal.....	" 29th

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Cavour.....	" 11th
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